DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 149 668 HE 009 581

AUTHOR Anderson, Laura

TITLE Southern Higher Education and the 1977 State Legislatures. Regional Spotlight Vol. XXI, No. 1.
INSTITUTION Southern Regional Education Board, Atlanta, Ga.
PUB DATE Aug 77
NOTE 9p.
AVAILABLE FROM Southern Regional Education Board, 130 Sixth Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30313

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Accreditation (Institutions); Capital Outlay (for Fixed Assets); Community Colleges; Faculty Workload; *Financial Support; Governing Boards; Government School Relationship; Grading; *Higher Education; Inflation (Economics); Medical Services; Private Colleges; School Industry Relationship; *Southern States; *State Action; *State Agencies; *State Legislation; Student Financial Aid; Student Participation; Teacher Salaries; Tuition

ABSTRACT

While 1977 was hardly a banner year for southern higher education in terms of legislative appropriations, it was an improvement over the most recent years. Financial stringency in recent years has given way to modest revenue gains in most southern states, with many reporting small but larger than expected surpluses. Budget increases ranged from 6 to 28 percent, with individual states' priorities and revenue sources varying widely. Most of the new monies were absorbed by funding existing programs, adjusting for inflation, and raising salaries. Capital expenditures were a rarity. Appropriations for community colleges increased at a greater rate than for the rest of higher education. There was continuing support for private colleges and universities. Spiraling tuition increases appeared to slow somewhat, and the issue of student financial aid received some attention. Other issues of importance include: boosts in health care delivery; the discontinuance of state agencies that have outlived their usefulness; faculty workloads and academic privilege; grade inflation; students on governing boards; licensing institutions; higher education relations with business and government; and implications for future legislative action. (MSE)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED149668

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT
SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD
NEWS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH
Vol. XXI, No. 1 Fall, 1977

Southern Higher Education and The 1977 State Legislatures

While it was hardly a banner year for Southern higher education, in terms of legislative appropriations, it was an improvement over the most recent years. Financial stringency of the past two years gave way this year to modest revenue gains in most regional states with many reporting small, but larger than expected surpluses.

Higher education in the South shared in the benefits of an improved economy as budget increases ranged broadly from about six percent to 28 percent, equaling and usually surpassing overall total state budget percentage increases.

Mississippi raised higher education allocations by 20 percent; Alabama, by 18 percent. By contrast, the corresponding 1976 budgets revealed virtually no increase in Mississippi and a reduction in Alabama. Florida's 17 percent increase for the university system was approximately double last year's funding hike.

Budgets were the major legislative item, but more than 38,400 bills and resolutions faced legislators as they met in thirteen regular sessions and nine special sessions. Money—how to spend it and where it was coming from—dominated weeks of debate throughout the South.

Maryland was the only regional state to raise its sales tax, by one percent to a total of five percent. Florida rejected a similar sales tax boost but passed others on cigarettes and alcohol and oil and phosphate severance.

> As our society becomes more complex, as our material and philosophic well-being become more dependent upon skills generally obtained through education, we are going to find that our responsibility to education will grow, not diminish.
>
> RALPH TURLINGTON
> Florida Commissioner of Education

Louisiana corporate and personal income tax rates were hiked to raise an additional $103 million; South Carolina raised by a penny taxes on both gasoline and cigarettes—over the governor's veto.

Arkansas made court fees higher, the proceeds to help support the University's law schools in Fayetteville and Little Rock.

Even with some new taxes and an improved economy, state budgets provided generally for what some termed "standstill" funding to continue existing programs. News articles reported that state monies were being spent for about "the same purposes and at about the same ratios" or that there would be "higher taxes, same programs."

This carried over to higher education. As one Southern legislator explained, "There'll be some fine tuning in higher education but no new songs."

This fine tuning will come as institutions adjust to the level of funding available and by way of continuing review and assessment by state higher education agencies, legislatures, and executive offices.

"Public policy for postsecondary education must be formulated at a time when it is unlikely that postsecondary education will receive a growing proportion of state or societal resources," SREB reported in its *Priorities for Postsecondary Education in the South*. And the "immediate future must be regarded, therefore, as one in which uncertainties and contingencies will be highly influential and perhaps dominant."

Some Fine Tuning . . .

While priorities varied state by state, much of the gain in academic appropriations was earmarked to cover inflation, increased energy costs, and salary raises. Salary increases averaged between five and 10 percent.

Public employee salary adjustments were among the highest leg-

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

islative priorities in several states, and raises for collegiate and public school faculty seemed to receive the most support. A poll of Louisiana voters revealed a strong endorsement for a 10 percent faculty pay raise, even if it meant higher taxes, but they were less supportive of increases for civil service employees.

Faculty salaries in Louisiana did increase by $1,500 for public school and collegiate faculty, while civil service employees received $900 raises. This is in addition to merit increases.

In Georgia salary increases were a high priority because of what occurred last year when Georgia revenue collections fell drastically short of projections and a special session was called to make major cuts to the budget. The cuts erased funds for faculty raises that the Board of Regents had agreed to, prompting a law suit by faculty groups and subsequently a Supreme Court decision in favor of the faculty. The Regents had to extract money for the raises from the university system's operating expenses.

This year, however, the legislature funded Governor George Busbee's priority request to allocate enough for a 9.5 percent faculty increase, at the discretion of the institutions.

In most states, salary funds were appropriated in lump sums to institutions or boards of regents to allocate, often on the basis of across-the-board increases and supplementary raises on a discretionary basis. Questions rose in several states as to the use for salary increases of some funds which had been justified in budget requests on the basis of the need to fill new positions.

Although the Florida legislature allocated salary funds that may be administered in a way to provide a 7.1 percent raise, this falls short of the 8.85 percent agreed to in the university system's first collective bargaining contract signed with the Board of Regents last spring. This action by the Florida legislature in the first year of higher education collective bargaining will likely spark new discussions of some fundamental questions about legislatures and collective bargaining.

Two such questions were posed at the SREB Legislative Work Conference last year by Dr. G. Theodore Mitau, former Chancellor of the Minnesota State College System

"Can the legislature permit an employer agency, such as the higher education board, to exceed its budgetary allocation through the collective bargaining process?" or, "Can the legislature delegate its own fiscal responsibilities?"

Dr. Mitau's position was that the legislature cannot, but he noted that some courts have held differently. Dr. Mitau explained that in Minnesota the legislature "changed the law in such a way that all contracts concluded between the colleges and the universities and the unions must have legislative concurrence before they can go into effect."

Bills regarding collective bargaining were introduced in practically every Southern legislature convening this year, but none passed. Although faculty in 23 states are unionized, Florida is the only SREB state with collective bargaining legislation.

. . . But No New Songs

After existing programs were funded, taking inflation into account, and salaries were increased, states found that this had absorbed most of their "new" monies.

Another contributing factor was that revenue in some states was projected to rise at a rate of a percentage or two less than in some earlier years.

States, many facing legal action, are also being required to allocate comparatively large sums to improve prison facilities. Several social services programs, such as Medicaid, continue to require a larger share of the state budget.

Also a factor here was that several expensive programs have been approved in recent years, some in education, which are now beginning to require substantial funding. For example, three new medical schools are about to accept their first classes and three new veterinary schools are in their first years of operation.

With these various constraints, there were few major new higher education programs approved by legislatures this year. Neither are many new academic programs at the doctoral level being approved by state higher education agencies. Seven of the 14 SREB states currently have moratoriums on additional doctoral programs, and the number of such programs begun in the region has stabilized at about 15 for each of the past three years.

What new program money there was, was targeted primarily at public elementary and secondary education. Florida passed a $10 million remedial education program for its public school students —about one-third what proponents sought. The Florida legislature gave a non-binding promise that in 1978 it will provide additional funding.

In what may be the most substantial new education program in this year's legislative sessions, North Carolina approved Governor James Hunt, Jr.'s proposed $45 million reading improvement program, along with a statewide testing program aimed at education accountability.

Governor David Pryor of Arkansas called for the legislature to shift funds it was recommending for higher education to special education programs in elementary-secondary schools instead. The legislature did not accept the governor's position and raised total higher education appropriations by about 14 percent, with some additional support earmarked for special education.

College libraries also got some legislative attention this year. Florida appropriated $10 million for the first year of a five-year improvement project for the state's nine university libraries; Mississippi, $2 million for a library catch-

up fund; and the North Carolina legislature appropriated $2.1 million for completion of the university library improvement program.

Borrowing for Building

Capital construction in higher education, particularly that funded directly from tax monies, was a rare indulgence for most states. What general fund tax money there was for such purposes went for renovation and maintenance. There were some states which approved major new building programs for higher education with money to come from bonds or federal sources. For example, Mississippi allocated $55 million in federal revenue sharing funds for building, more than one-fourth of it to go for phase one of the Mississippi State School of Veterinary Medicine.

West Virginia authorized $60 million in revenue bonds for campus construction, primarily for athletic and recreational facilities.

Virginia voters will decide this fall on a proposed $86.4 million bond construction program for higher education.

Louisiana legislators authorized nearly $150 million in capital construction. Almost all is to be raised from bonds and nearly half is for emergency and maintenance projects.

Texas' solvency—the fact that its income from resources committed to college construction is growing rapidly and estimated to be in excess of building needs for projected enrollment—is the very reason for caution, says Harry Provence, chairman of the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System.

"Over a 30-year period, building and maintenance and custodial expenses alone will total nearly three times the original cost of constructing a typical classroom building . . . Although we have the dedicated resources to provide adequately for buildings at our colleges and universities, we must use them wisely," Provence emphasizes.

Community College Support

Although community colleges in some states were beset by declining enrollments for the first time since they were established, appropriations to community colleges continued generally to increase at a faster rate than for any other part of higher education. However, in Virginia and North Carolina some institutions failed to meet enrollment forecasts and their budgets were cut.

In Virginia the cutback totaled only about $1 million at six community colleges and five senior institutions but it may signal a new legislative policy on budgets and enrollment predictions.

The budget reduction tied to enrollment in North Carolina's 57 community colleges and technical institutes was nearly $9 million, from $116 million in 1976-77 to $107 million in 1977-78.

The funding for Maryland's community colleges increased by 10.5 percent, the largest gain in the higher education budget. Funding was increased from $700 to $800 per Full-Time-Equivalent student under a newly adopted formula, and now community college budgets will be tied directly to FTE enrollment projected a year in advance. If more students than estimated enroll the following September, the community colleges can receive more funds only if a supplementary budget item is passed by the legislature. If fewer students than expected enroll, the money previously appropriated for them must be returned.

In West Virginia a much-debated bill was passed and vetoed which would have required legislative approval to create any new community college in the state.

In Arkansas, Governor Pryor vetoed legislation authorizing three new community colleges, declaring the state could not afford new higher educational institutions of any kind.

Private Sector Funding

There was continuing support, primarily in the form of student grant programs, to help private colleges and universities. Georgia, Maryland, North and South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas raised support.

The state support program for private colleges in Maryland was placed this year under the administration of the state Board for Higher Education. Supporting private college students in 1977

Higher Education Studies

While legislative reviews of state government, including higher education, have increased in recent years, legislative studies of higher education issues are less common now. Instead, legislatures frequently call on the state higher education agency to conduct studies of education, or the higher education agency initiates studies of its own and reports to the legislature. In the 1977 sessions legislatures called for a number of studies, most of the following to be done by the state higher education agencies:

- Faculty Consultant Activities -- Virginia
- Formula System of Financing Higher Education — Texas
- Grade Inflation — Virginia
- Guaranteed Student Loan Program — Texas
- Health Manpower/Physicians' Supply - Tennessee
- Non-Traditional Learning; Guidelines for Awarding Equivalency Credits — Maryland
- Prepaid Education Plans — Louisiana
- Tuition Reciprocity — Tennessee

A more comprehensive listing of higher education studies, reports, and surveys currently underway or recently completed in the South is available upon request from SREB.

with about 15 percent of the aid provided students in public institutions, that percentage will increase to 17.5 percent in 1978, and up to 20 percent by 1980.

Georgia and North Carolina both raised to $500 per student their private higher education aid programs.

A $600 per student grant program failed in Alabama. The bill would have prohibited a private school from receiving the grant money if it raised its tuition and excluded these tuition benefits to families with incomes over $18,000.

Tuition Questions Raised

The spiraling increases in tuition, particularly at state-supported institutions, appeared to slow somewhat this year. Tuition boosts were neither as great nor as common as in recent years.

North Carolina did raise tuition by 10 percent for students in all state institutions, and Kentucky students will also pay higher tuition for the first time in recent years.

But for the first time in several years, tuition for Florida university students will not be raised, and in-state students in the University of Tennessee system will not pay more.

Louisiana State University suspended out-of-state charges for students whose mothers or fathers were LSU graduates.

Georgia did not pass a bill to provide grants for state residents living near other state borders to attend out-of-state institutions located nearer to them than any Georgia colleges.

The Tennessee legislature had before it a series of controversial bilis to reduce charges for out-of-state students to come into the state.

In 1976 the legislature approved a plan whereby several Tennessee colleges near the Tennessee and Kentucky border were authorized to waive out-of-state charges for students from selected counties in southern Kentucky.

In 1977 there were similar proposals for a host of Tennessee colleges located near state borders. Empty dormitory spaces and enrollment declines figured into the arguments for the proposals.

Opponents claimed that college and university administrators were trying to boost enrollment for the purpose of obtaining increased state appropriations. Representative John Bragg, House finance committee, opposed the bills stating that Tennessee had many qualified high school graduates who weren't going to college and suggesting that recruiting efforts be intensified within the state instead of being directed across the border.

No action was taken and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission was directed to give its recommendations to the legislature next year.

Meanwhile, Kentucky will give an in-state tuition break at Murray State University to students from 24 northwestern neighboring counties in Illinois, Indiana and Missouri.

"This is purely an economic move," says Harry Snyder, executive director of the Kentucky Council on Higher Education. Murray's dormitory occupancy rate has dropped from 95 percent ten years ago to about 70 percent today. Most of the decline is attributed to the loss of out-of-state students who were not willing to pay the legislated 1968 increase in out-of-state tuition.

Potpourri of Student Aid

Student aid appropriations were not spectacular but the issue, particularly in the form of loan programs, did receive attention in several states including Mississippi, Arkansas, Virginia and Georgia. Often a state loan authority was created or bolstered.

Senior citizens now get a break in tuition in at least six Southern states including Arkansas, Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, West Virginia and Virginia. Age specifications for free tuition vary from 60 to 65 years of age, and admittance to class is usually on a space-available basis.

A trend toward a sort of decentralized G.I. Bill of Rights for state National Guard members has been observed throughout the nation. A recent SREB survey shows that seven Southern states now have active tuition aid programs for guard members (see table).

Tuition Aid Programs for National Guardsmen

State	Year Funded	Program Established	Funded By
Alaska	1975	Fifty percent of tuition and fees.	Legislative appropriations.
Arizona	1974	Reimbursement for tuition and other fees.	Legislative appropriations.
Georgia	**1978**	**Loan programs.**	**Legislative appropriations.**
Idaho	1974	Fifty percent reimbursement of registration fees—public, private or vo-tech schools.	Legislative appropriations to National Guard.
Illinois	1976	Scholarship program whereby National Guard members are exempt from tuition and matriculation fees for equivalent of 4 years study.	Legislative appropriations ($250,000—more than any other state).
Kentucky	**1976**	**Up to 50% tuition or matriculation fees.**	**Legislative appropriations were inadequate; additional funds granted by governor to continue program.**
Louisiana	**1975**	**Tuition exemption.**	**No funds involved.**
Mississippi	**1975**	**Payment of tuition.**	**Legislative appropriations.**
Missouri	1975	Voluntary scholarship program established by 5 state universities and one postsecondary vocational-technical institute, providing much or all of tuition.	No funds involved.
Nebraska	1974	Tuition credit.	No funds involved.
North Carolina	**1976**	**Tuition assistance.**	**Legislative appropriations. Funded at discretion of Secretary of Crime Patrol and Public Safety.**
North Dakota	1977	Tuition waiver (state pays 50% and the school waives 25% of tuition).	Legislative appropriations of $250,000 for 1977-1979.
Ohio	1976	Scholarship for 75 students at Ohio U. only for those signing up for advanced ROTC.	Ohio University.
Oklahoma	1976-77	Scholarship programs.	Legislative appropriations.
Utah	1975	Scholarship or one-half tuition for 3 quarters.	Legislative appropriations.
Vermont	1974	Scholarship program (up to $500 each year).	Legislative appropriations.
Virginia	**1978**	**One-half of tuition to any state institution of higher education or any public vocational or technical school. No grant shall exceed $500 per year.**	**Legislative allocations to Department of Military Affairs.**
West Virginia	**1977**	**Complete tuition and fees to non-degreed National Guard members to colleges, universities and technical schools.**	**No funding yet.**
Wisconsin	1977	Pay half tuition.	Legislative appropriations.
Wyoming	1977	Scholarship program and partial tuition payment.	Legislative appropriations.

Legislation is pending in **Arkansas**, Massachusetts, New York, and **Tennessee**.

For example, the Virginia program will pay one-half of college tuition for guard members; in Georgia, a scholarship program provides up to $500 which can be repaid by continued service in the guard; West Virginia approved a modified proposal for guard funds to be used for tuition costs.

Paying tuition fees by means of credit cards under conditions specified by a 1977 Maryland statute has been declared inoperable. The bill called for students to pay the service fees for credit card use, but officials discovered that federal law prohibits charging of service fees to users of credit cards.

Summer tuition fees in Florida have been cut by nearly one-half for freshmen and sophomores, and by close to one-third for upperclassmen in efforts to increase year-round use of university facilities.

Health Studies Boosted

Getting medical help to the rural South is a perennial legislative headache.

Georgia boosted by $275,000 its family physicians training program which prepares the rural-bound doctors for the diversity of medical problems they will be expected to confront: family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, surgery and psychiatry.

Funds will continue at a rate of $2.2 million for development of a medical school at East Tennessee State University. The medical school was approved by the legislature three years ago on the premise that it would induce more doctors to take up practice in physician-short east Tennessee. State legislators also directed the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to continue its search for practical, economically feasible ways to assure medical services in the non-urban parts of the state.

A bill passed in Tennessee requiring medical graduates to practice for a certain number of years in rural areas or pay the state its investment in their medical training. Governor Ray Blanton vetoed the bill, saying it was discriminatory against Tennessee residents studying medicine in the state and because it did not apply to other medical professions, such as dentistry, nursing and pharmacy.

In Texas, $130,000 in supplementary funds was authorized for a program providing loans for those medical students who agree to practice in rural areas. Texas Women's University's bid to establish a state-supported medical school was opposed by the Coordinating Board and defeated by the legislature.

Other medical education needs were tended in the '77 session: the proposed medical school at Morehouse College in Atlanta was given $1 million of legislative funding; there will be a new $50 million, 400-bed medical facility for state prison inmates at Galveston, operated by the University of Texas medical branch in the port city; a teaching hospital at the University of Mississippi will get an $8.4 million boost; and in West Virginia the new Marshall School of Medicine will receive $1.7 million in operating funds and the West Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine, more than $2 million.

Veterinary medicine continues to be an issue in some states.

After considerable debate the Mississippi legislature appropriated nearly $13.5 million to build the veterinary medicine teaching hospital, the first phase of the $30 million Mississippi State University veterinary school. Another $1.9 million was advanced for operating funds.

Maryland authorized a feasibility study of a school of veterinary medicine at Johns Hopkins; a similar study was recently completed regarding a University of Maryland site for such a school. Maryland now sends 86 students to regional veterinary medicine schools via SREB's contract program.

North Carolina debated the veterinary medicine issue but did not appropriate construction funds. The legislature did set aside a reserve fund of $2 million, plus another million to continue planning for a proposed school at North Carolina State University. The proposed school has a projected $37 million construction cost and initial operating budget of $5 million annually. If additional funding is forthcoming, the school is targeted for a 1981 opening and an eventual capacity of 250 students.

Sunset in the South

Sunset laws were debated throughout the South this year. These laws, if passed, can discontinue state agencies which are judged to have outlived their usefulness. All Southern states have either considered or passed sunset bills in the past two years, and they vary widely from state to state.

"Provisions of the sunset bills compel a calculated decision by elected officials to continue or abolish bureaucracies," claims one North Carolina senator.

Some regional legislators contend that few agencies and programs will be terminated by sunset legislation and that a more realistic goal is to improve management and program effectiveness.

Academic programs are at present exempt from the sunset laws *per se*, although a similar type of program review has been going on for some time by some state higher education agencies. The Texas Coordinating Board considered attaching a formal sunset provision to every future new program it approves, but has not done so. And in Tennessee recently, the Commission of Higher Education approved a new master's program in criminal justice and stipulated that it would terminate the program if, after five years, performance did not meet specific criteria such as degree production, employment of graduates and cost effectiveness.

Faculty Workloads: In the classroom . . .

Academic productivity is a continuing concern of legislatures. One question in two general assemblies this year has focused on how many hours faculty should teach. At least 12 hours weekly, was the recommendation of governors of South Carolina and Texas in their push for minimum teaching load requirements for higher education faculty.

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, at the governor's request, gathered data on faculty activity, which showed the average professor at the University of South Carolina spends 50-55 hours a week in professional activities relating to the job. The Virginia Council on Higher Education reported similar findings, as have other studies across the nation. Such reports have often been met with skepticism on the part of legislators.

The proposal for workload requirements in South Carolina died in committee, but in Texas a compromise approach will be tried.

Supporters of the Texas bill claimed that graduate teaching assistants now bear a disproportionate share of the teaching load at some institutions. The legislature directed the Coordinating Board to establish "standards" for faculty workloads. A self-reporting monitoring system will keep the legislature informed; those schools failing to cooperate would lose some faculty salary funding next year.

. . . and out

"Moonlighting at second jobs and doing outside consulting work in their academic fields are common methods college professors use to increase their financial resources," the *Atlanta Journal's* Bill Montgomery writes, pointing to a survey by the American Association of University Professors chapter at Georgia Southern College in Statesboro which found nearly a third of 197 teachers averaging 18 hours a week in "second" jobs and another 15 percent looking for extra work, in addition to their full-time faculty duties.

Both Georgia and Virginia are attempting to determine the extent to which faculty are employed as private consultants and if the academic institutions' time and facilities are being used in the course of such outside employment.

Higher Grades With Less Effort?

The Virginia State Council on Higher Education was directed to take a look at what legislators feel is a growing problem: one of grade inflation and its consequences. Proponents of the study contended that students in colleges and universities are "being awarded higher and higher grades without a commensurate increase in the quality of their work" which devalues the significance of high marks and erodes the ability to recognize and reward academic excellence. The recently concluded Virginia study claims the problem is less in the state than in the nation overall, is stabilizing, and no corrective measures are recommended.

A Voice on the Board

Students and faculty have long campaigned for an official voice in how state boards of regents operate colleges and universities. They gained some ground this year.

Florida legislators agreed to put a student on the Board of Regents for a one-year term, but declined to grant voting powers.

A student has been on each of North Carolina's boards of trustees for community colleges, vocational-technical institutes and industrial training centers, but not on senior institutional boards.

West Virginia has had both a student and a faculty member in *ex officio* positions on the Board of Regents, but a new bill passed this year at the urging of Governor John D. Rockefeller IV gives these two members full voting privileges.

The Alabama legislature voted

down a proposal for a voting student member on the boards of trustees of four-year colleges and universities and on the advisory committees of junior colleges. Voting status for student members of the Board of Trustees at Auburn University and the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa was also defeated in a separate measure.

Licensing Education

South Carolina legislators decreed the regulation of so-called "diploma mills." Excepting the religious-oriented schools and those accredited by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation, the Commission on Higher Education is authorized to license and regulate non-public institutions offering degrees in South Carolina. Failure to obtain a license could result in a fine of up to $5,000 for each degree the non-licensed institution grants. Maryland and Virginia also passed higher education licensure bills.

A Back-Up Force

Efforts to establish formal relationships between higher education, business and government received attention this year in several states.

Georgia established the University Business Development Center at the University in Athens to encourage the development and expansion of the small business sector.

Increasing higher education services to the legislature is up for study in Maryland. An SREB study, *The Academic Community: A Back-up Force to State Government*, has identified a number of existing academic-government programs and possible ways to extend this relationship.

Looking Ahead

And so, while not a record year in terms of appropriations for higher education, it was a relatively good one, particularly when compared to the previous two.

Although this year for the first time in a decade higher education enrollments leveled off or declined in some Southern states, this did not seem to cause immediate concern in the legislatures, partly because last year's 13 percent increase was the largest in 10 years. Colleges and budgets are still adjusting to this larger-than-anticipated surge.

The relative absence of highly controversial collegiate issues in recent legislative years sparked one reporter to describe a 1976 session as marked by "an epidemic of indifference for higher education" and another to note this year that "burning, emotional-type issues were again absent."

The comparatively strong level of funding for higher education, generally equal to or exceeding the overall state budget increases this year, does not seem to indicate indifference, although there may be a shift ahead in the kinds of higher education issues and the ways legislatures will address them.

"Traditional higher education issues that created the most interest and controversy, such as major building efforts, new professional schools, new community colleges, and the structure for coordination and governance, are, or soon will be, largely over in most state legislatures," notes SREB State Services Officer Mark Musick. "But new issues, particularly that of new criteria for funding higher education in a period of enrollment stability or decline, will create controversy in future sessions."

The growing number of older, part-time students, especially those in non-degree or non-credit programs, may "spark debates about state funding for these students and the appropriate roles for institutions in providing programs for them." And the projected sharp decline in the number of new faculty needed in the 1980's may present difficult decisions about graduate programs, Musick continues.

"It seems likely that state higher education agencies, strengthened by legislatures in virtually every Southern state in recent years, will be called on increasingly to recommend legislative actions on higher education policies and funding plans."

With budget office staffs and legislative committee and program audit staffs growing in numbers and influence, Musick says that more so than ever higher education questions may be examined on several fronts before proposals reach a vote before the legislature.

The challenge, it seems, will be to sustain attention to changing conditions and kinds of choices ahead. The trend, predicts Musick, will probably be to consolidate and improve upon the gains already made.

For Further Reading

Information on publications listed below may be obtained through author or publisher:

"Georgia Profs Learning to Live Poor," Bill Montgomery, *Atlanta Journal*, April 7, 1977.

SREB, *The Academic Community: A Backup Force to State Government*, Gene Bramlett, September 1974. ($2.00)

SREB, "Higher Education Studies, Reports and Surveys in the SREB States," July 1977.

SREB, "Planning for Statewide Program Approval and Review," *Issues in Higher Education*, Number 11 in a Series, 1977.

SREB, *Stability and Change - Postsecondary Education's Future: Proceedings of the 26th Legislative Work Conference, 1977.* ($2.00)

SREB, *Summary of State Legislation Affecting Higher Education in the South, 1976.*

SREB, *Southern Higher Education Legislative Report*, 1977. ($2.00)

SREB, *Taxes and Higher Education*, 1976. ($2.00)

News From The Region

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently announced two groups of grants to increase the representation of women and minorities in scientific and technical careers.

The first, totaling $2.7 million, will be shared by 18 predominantly minority institutions, 10 of them in the South. The following SREB regional institutions will receive NSF funding to strengthen their science education programs and to increase the flow of minority students into science and engineering careers: **State Technical College** in Montgomery, **Lawson State Community College** and **Oakwood College** (AL); **U. of Arkansas** at Pine Bluff; **Atlanta Junior College** (GA); **Xavier U.** (LA); **Community College of Baltimore** (MD); **Jackson State University** (MS); **Prairie View A&T U.** (TX); and **Hampton Institute** (VA).

Women will be the beneficiaries of the second NSF grant program. Seven institutions in the South, along with 27 institutions outside the region, will receive $907,640 for two types of projects aimed at developing and testing methods to attract and retain women in scientific careers. Regional grantees are **S. D. Bishop State Junior College** (AL); **Essex Community College** and **Hood College** (MD); **Alcorn State U.** (MS); **Texas A&M U., U. of Houston** and **U. of Texas-Arlington.**

Solar research at the Energy Foundation of Texas has been boosted by $644,100 from the Energy Research and Development Administration. The ERDA grant for the **U. of Houston** Central Campus-**Texas Tech U.** consortium "is a breakthrough for interinstitutional cooperation and an example of the way in which Texas public institutions are working together to help solve the state's and the nation's energy problems," says Dr. Barry Munitz, U. of Houston interim chancellor and dean of faculties.

Women are also being encouraged to pursue business management careers through a program at the **College of William and Mary** in Virginia. The four-year program, funded by a $100,000 grant from the IBM Corporation, is designated for undergraduate seminars, fellowships, and a new counseling service for women enrolled in graduate business management.

Since 1968, more than $10 million has come from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, to 25 of the nation's traditionally black institutions of higher education. The grants have been made to strengthen education programs which provide increasing career opportunities for black graduates.

North Carolina A&T State U. and **Norfolk State College** (VA) are recent recipients of additional Kellogg funding. Two grants totaling $495,400 to the North Carolina institution will be used to assist faculty and student development in the school of business and economics and to improve the university's mass communications curriculum. Kellogg also funded a program to improve the university's school of engineering curriculum in 1969.

And $426,520 from Kellogg to Norfolk State College will help strengthen and expand its programs in journalism and communications. Two previous Kellogg grants of $505,000 were awarded to the college's division of social services to establish the W. K. Kellogg Social Science Research Laboratory.

Note: Regional Spotlight is issued quarterly during each academic year. The articles are created by the writer-editor with the assistance of persons knowledgeable in the field being treated. Newspaper, magazine and periodical editors are invited to use the material here in whole or in part. When SREB material is used, please provide a sample copy of the issue in which it appears to the Board, addressed to the writer-editor's attention.

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

NEWS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH

Laura Anderson, Writer-Editor

Published four times a year
by the
SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD
130 Sixth Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30313

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
ATLANTA, GA.
Permit No. 404

When requesting change of address, please enclose above label.